

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
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CHIPS, PEOPLE AND WORK

(pages 8 and 9)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Cover picture:

'If mud is good for the complexion, we should be raving beauties by the time we leave!' See story 'Concrete Cows and all that ...' in this issue.

Photo: Andy James



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

From the Editor

My generation, which grew up in the 1920s and 30s, has had an exciting adult life, spanning the fighting 40s, the frenetic 50s, the swinging 60s and the semi-socialist 70s. Now, we're about to enter the electronic 80s and most of us are uneasy about what they will bring. The ripples of the coming energy crisis reached our cold feet in 1974 and are now lapping round our ankles. Deep social change and the new technologies are with us already, offering vast, new, less energy consuming opportunities if only we can adjust to them quickly enough. If we can't or won't, the likely social problems are frightening.

The problem worrying us most is growing unemployment. Some experts see our figures reaching two million in the early 1980s – about half that figure made up of those displaced by the new technologies. I'll return to those later but first I want to look at the steady rise in the number of people demanding jobs. Following exceptionally high birth rates in the post-war years, the 1960s and 70s produced a very heavy crop of school leavers even after the raising of the school leaving age. When our unemployment figures passed 1.5 million, there were actually many more people in work than ever before. From the mid-1960s, the birth rate started to fall and in the 1970s that fall has been dramatic. (There are slight signs that it may be rising again.) But that trend doesn't help the unemployment problem because it is due in large measure to the 'liberation' of women from bearing and raising families and from much of the dreary and time consuming work that was once part of running a home. I'm told that the 'typical' family now has only two children and that these tend to be born close together. Thus, working women – now the majority – need withdraw from full time work for only 10 years, even if they stay at home until both children start at primary school. These social changes will go on producing high unemployment figures even without dramatic redundancies caused by the new technologies.

What about the new technologies which can replace human labour in almost every form of work? In some ways, the chemical technologies are the most important because they offer hope of lessening the impact of the energy crisis. But it is the silicon chip which captures the imagination because it highlights the scale and the speed of the problems we face. Only 20 years ago, one of these tiny slivers could hold perhaps a couple of dozen circuits; now it carries some 60,000; soon it may carry a million. And their cost has fallen dramatically. Speakers in Mary Goldring's recent excellent 'Analysis' programmes ('Into the 80s') pointed out that we are near the point when they can be programmed into washing machines, cookers and motor cars; when they can control sophisticated robot arms to perform most production work and even industrial design; where a word processor and an electronic filing system can be introduced for the price of one typist's wages for little more than one year.

If we turn our backs on the new technologies we shall become a low income society with mass unemployment. And if we embrace them? Well, those already in the game argue with force that the whole of our industrial history proves the Luddites wrong – that in the long run all new technologies create more jobs than they destroy. Try convincing a worker whose present job is at stake! And even if these pundits are right, what happens to the redundant millions in the short and medium terms? The real problem is not that of producing enough to live on: the new machines and chemicals can do that for us all – including the unemployed. The problem is that men will fight to keep the jobs they have because they feel dependent and useless without them. Some union leaders and academics are urging already that we should start to work shorter hours, take long holidays, cut out overtime to spread what work there is and progressively reduce retiring ages. But what do we do in the longer term when the laboratory, the micro-processor and the robot make most of us redundant in the factory and the office?

John Mitchell's article elsewhere in this issue makes clear that we in Toc H are thinking seriously about all these problems. We know that we can offer a neutral ground where all sorts of people can meet for debate and we have a strong tradition of interest in leisure pursuits. After all, whether we call being out of work 'unemployment' or 'leisure' depends largely on income and point of view. Perhaps, as our own expert, Tom Gulliver, believes, it's high time we buried the traditional Protestant work ethic which implies that a man not working to earn his bread is useless, if not downright wicked. If we do that, immense problems of self discipline social change could come very quickly. Indeed, I have heard it argued that it is coming already – that our reluctance as a nation to improve productivity, ie to do a full day's work, shows how far ahead we are of our industrial competitors!

What do you think?

FGR

TONY'S TOUR!

Tony Reade, Chairman of Toc H Australia was touring England earlier this summer and has sent us pictures of some of the Toc H highlights of his tour.



Stockton's 'Friendship Circle' seems to have caught up Adrian in a big way!



'Living Sculpture' session gets people together at Milton Keynes. (See 'Concrete cows and all that . . .' by Colin Rudd in this issue.)



John and Hilary 'lead the field' at a meeting in the Birmingham Centre of the West Midlands and South Wales Regional Projects Committee.



Participants in 24 hour fund raising table tennis marathon in Warrington.

In Brief...

● During a recent holiday, one of our physically handicapped members came across a newly opened holiday home for the handicapped. He was so captivated by the place (Lion's Club of Ross-on-Wye) that he has asked us to let more Toc H members know about it. This is a Charlie Chester Home for the Handicapped and is in the 11 acre grounds of the Chase Hotel, in the centre of Ross-on-Wye. It is for the exclusive use of those confined to wheelchairs and accompanied by an assisting adult. The home is fully equipped to take the disabled person plus wife or husband and two children. Entrance is by ramp. The current charge is £45 a week (until 1 September) and £40 a week from then until 20 October. All enquiries should go to: Booking Secretary, Ross-on-Wye Lions Club Holiday Home, c/o The Chase Hotel, Gloucester Road, Ross-on-Wye.

● Fred Bailey, of Bideford (Devon) Joint Branch has just sent us some of his local news. At a recent successful coffee evening, they raised £30 for the local hospital (one member alone selling £22 worth of 15p tickets). The branch treasurer runs a bric-a-brac stall in the local market and clears a regular weekly sum for Toc H causes. They meet once a month with Bideford Women's Branch which is flourishing. Fred says that much of his own branch's success is due to a tireless secretary. She runs a local wool shop but you can rarely see the wool for the piles of waste paper she collects there! As Fred says, 'What members! How can you fail?'

● At a recent sponsored walk organised by the Worthing Lions Club in aid of monitoring units for the Intensive Care Department of Worthing Hospital, the East Worthing Women's Branch Secretary Mrs Rachel Coleman walked the full course of 13 miles over the Downs in pouring rain. She thereby contributed the sum of £28 on behalf of Toc H towards the grand total of over £1,000. She received a letter of thanks from the Lions for her gallant effort.

● Gorleston (Norfolk) Women's Branch (still growing — two new members in June, the Secretary tells us) has sent us a report of one of their annual events. At the end of May, they took 40 elderly people on a tour of the Norfolk Broads. A thoroughly enjoyable day included a waterside picnic meal and finished with a trip along the whole Yarmouth sea front which some of the guests had not seen for years.

● Uxbridge (Middlesex) Men's Branch celebrated their 50th birthday in April with a Service of Thanksgiving and Re-Dedication and a reception. The Service (at Christ Church) was conducted by Rev Derek Strange and the address given by the Toc H Chaplain, Rev John Hull. Light was taken by George Peddle, the branch's Honorary Life President and sole surviving founder member. More than 100 members and friends were present, with some ex-members travelling considerable distances. Presentations were made to George Peddle and his wife who ceremoniously cut the birthday cake, made by Janie Gilbert — a long standing friend of the branch. The evening ended with an entertainment. Much interest was shown by visitors in a display of historical matter mounted in the foyer of the reception room.

● Deal and Walmer (Kent) Joint Branch had a double happy event at one of their June branch meetings. Rev 'Polly' Perkins formally initiated a new branch member (Joan Johnson) and also invested a new branch padre — Rev Bernard Sewell.

● Reigate and Redhill (Surrey) Women's Branch write to say that, during the past three years, they have knitted literally hundreds of squares and made them up into blankets. They have traditionally distributed the blankets to old people in need and are now supplying Crawley's Clayton House.

● Medway and Sheppey Joint District are in urgent need of a sound but cheap typewriter — preferably a portable, so that it can be readily used by all branches in the District. They have put aside £20 at present but could possibly raise a little more if necessary. Any offers, please, to the DEC Secretary (Mrs Margaret Stevens, 43 Gordon Road, Gillingham, Kent).

Welcome

The following branches elected new members during June:

- 5 — Gwent District
- 3 — Holland-on-Sea (w), Oakley (j) Okehampton (w)
- 2 — Melton Mowbray (w), Mochdre (j) Southampton Magpies (j), Tower Hill (j), Wellingborough (m)
- 1 — Ashby-de-la-Zouch (m), Coney Hall (m), Fareham (j), Gloucester District, Loughton (w), Melton Mowbray (m), Ross-on-Wye (j) Sunderland (j)

A warm welcome to 33 new members



Photo: Leicester Mercury

Leicester Women's Branch recently celebrated their 50th birthday. Branch Chairman Sheila Holt (centre) and Gertrude Bott (the cake maker) look on while founder member Marion Thompson cuts the magnificent birthday cake.



Photo: North West London Press Ltd

The Mayoress of Brent cuts the cake at the 30th birthday celebrations of the Toc H Blind Club in the Church of the Ascension, Wembley Park.



Photo: Huddersfield Examiner

Ninety years young! Charlie Avery of Huddersfield (seen here making a presentation to a retiring member of the staff of Thorpe Grange Old People's Home) has recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Charlie joined Huddersfield Branch in January 1923 and was Yorkshire Pilot for more than 30 years. He remains fit and active, is very well known locally and loved by all who meet him.

'The Prince's Lamp'

The casket for 'The Prince's Lamp' in All Hallows now gleams with the same brilliance as on the day it was unveiled by Edward, Prince of Wales at the Toc H Birthday Celebration, more than half a century ago. For this, we owe our thanks to five men: Jack Davis; his son Michael, who worked under his direction; Laurie Whiteley, plater and metal finisher; David Glascock, polisher; and Terry McGrath, who helped with dismantling and reassembly.

The first job was completely to dismantle the 3 cwt casket, numbering the various parts and making drawings to ensure its correct reassembly.

The dirt of 50 years was cleaned off and metal parts were rebronzed, a process which artificially ages the parent metal and gives it a mellow finish. Other parts were repainted with red, white, blue and gold paint in the original style.

They also installed a modern lighting system in the casket, giving more even illumination and reducing the danger of further heat damage to the glass panels, which bear the arms of cities and towns with branches or groups existing at that time.

Jack and Michael aren't the only members of the Davis family with a part in this story. Jack's father, Edgar Davis, was involved in making the original Prince's Lamp.

The Prince himself, who had warmly approved the casket's design, unveiled it in a packed All Hallows during the Birthday Celebration. It stands where it stood then, in the North Chapel, on the canopied mediaeval tomb of Sir John Croke, an alderman of the city.

The casket was designed by Alec Smithers, a first World War officer, and a foundation member of Toc H and of its Executive. It cost £350 to make then; Jack Davis estimates the price would be nearer £12,000 today!

Speaking of his intentions in designing the casket, Alec wrote '... it is hoped it will prove a worthy and fitting setting for the Lamp, and express the feeling of its origin, ie protection and strength for the emblem of our cause, an inner light in dark places; the whole thus expressing outwardly in form and colour all that we would transmit to the generations to follow. A hundred years hence, our successors in Toc H will judge their Elder Brethren by the motives typified in this casket, and the Lamp it is both to shield and to set forth'.

CSS

Peter Kefford, Parochus, and Peter Delancy, Vicar of All Hallows, admiring the restored casket.

Through the open window

by Guy Brinkworth SJ

THE LITTLE WHITE COFFIN



Down below, crawling away slowly along the beach road is what appears to be a funeral cortege. It is on its way to the cemetery situated on the high promontory on the other side of the bay. I reach for my bird watching binoculars and am surprised to see a very small coffin, gleaming white. A baby has died and followed by his sorrowing parents and relatives is on its way to a solemn religious interment. Sadly many thoughts well up in my mind. But one overwhelms me. I reflect of the over 100,000 little ones who will be selfishly destroyed on this planet during the next 24 hours — destroyed, not just killed, but many unspeakably mangled and torn little limb from limb simply because, through no fault of their own, they are so selfishly unwanted. 'Fun babies' — freely conceived in 'fun' and then put down because they will prove dangerous or a nuisance. No nice white coffins for them, no loving and Christian burial: just a plastic bag and the dustbin or incinerator. To what have we sunk, with our so-called 'welfare state' encouraging and financing this cruel massacre? A strange anomaly that a great wave of indignation goes up when a teenage youth is murdered — rightly so, of course: We talk freely of psychopaths and bestiality: (an insult to the beasts which all keep God's laws) — but what of the daily slaughter of the 100,000 innocents? A word springs to mind: and it is the perfect one. Diabolical. For the ancient warning of Christ, so meek and gentle of heart and who loved children has grown faint in our noisy rat race. 'Beware of Satan — for he is a liar and a killer!' The slick cosmetic but great lie: that a child is not a human being until it is actually born. And the diabolical *hatred* of human life: the diabolical encouragement of every form of violence from the sword and bomb even at times to the surgeon's scalpel.

What of the Declaration of 1954 by the United Nations? 'The child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection *before* as well as after its birth' (our italics). The child damaged before birth in the womb succeeds in winning compensation (eg the famous thalidomide cases) — and yet Satan has persuaded us to ignore its right to *live*. The strange logic of that rat race! And, of course, already the so called secular humanists, agents of Lucifer, are denying the aged and the infirm the same right to live. Legalised euthanasia will follow legalised abortion as night follows night.

So as I watch the receding sad funeral procession, my heart is filled with another sadness, foreboding and prayer. Dear God, please do something to stop this arrogant, selfish permissiveness! 'Suffer the little children to come unto me!' And my prayer also goes up that Satan will be thwarted yet, and at least that the Divine Saviour will Himself welcome into His Kingdom of Heaven that immense daily army of murdered unborn children.

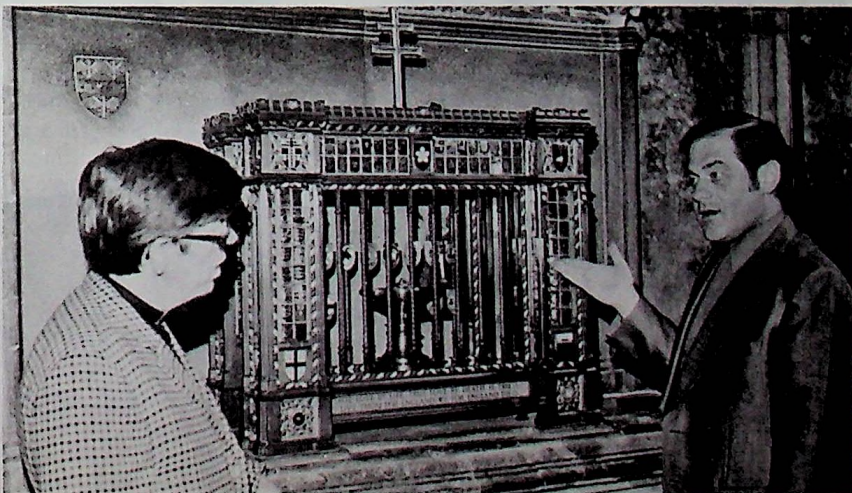


Photo: Scott Shaw

THE CENTRE (St Martin-in-the-Fields)

by Geoffrey Hooper



This is a fine Georgian building in the centre of London which has had a strong new purpose for the past 11 years. It was built in 1830 on land leased by King George IV and for more than a century it served as a school. It is a listed historic building, carefully restored for its present use as a rendezvous for all young people coming into the centre of London, a home from home for them where they can rest, talk, eat, find new friends and make plans. Tens of thousands of youngsters between 16 and 25 work in London while their homes and friends are in other parts of the country.

St Martin's Church, its Crypt, Soup Kitchen and Social Service Unit are well known for their caring ministry (one might say, their 'crisis' welfare work) over many years in helping people of all ages and races who are destitute, homeless, in and out of prison or beset by drink (or drug) problems.

Now, let me tell you how 'The Centre' came into being. The Reverend Prebendary Austen Williams, Vicar of St-Martin-in-the-Fields since 1956, has always been deeply concerned for the welfare of the thousands of young people from this country and overseas who for various reasons find themselves alone in London and often cut off from their homes. With vivid memories of 'Johnny Go Home' — which, as you might remember, was a TV documentary about a homeless youngster — Austen Williams was all too well aware of the serious risks attached to loneliness in London that they faced, and of the fact that they could not find in the divided and

disintegrated local community of the St Martin's district any substitute for the stability of a good home or a well run club. The Vicar's earnest desire was for the creation of a centre for young people between the ages of 16 and 25 — not a place where they would be expected or in any way 'pressured' into taking part in organised activities, but rather a 'home from home' where newcomers would be given a warm, cheerful welcome, be introduced to staff and members, spend an evening, make friends, have an inexpensive meal and, only if they wished, take part in a variety of activities. They would also be provided with the opportunity of seeking help, if this was what they wanted.

It so happened that in 1968 the St Martin's National School, which was housed in the eastern half of the splendid Georgian building standing immediately to the north of St Martin's Church, wished to expand its facilities and moved to its present abode in Tulse Hill. After the building was vacated and Austen Williams had managed to obtain a lease on it, work began on the conversion of the former school building, and the Vicar's vision and prayer became reality when, on 12 June 1973, 'The Centre' at St Martin-in-the-Fields was officially opened by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Since that day 'The Centre', which is a registered charity, has steadily expanded its activities and membership, averaging each evening 60 members and 45 guests (last year alone it had over 31,000 visits) and has more than justified its existence. Its function is to create a 'home from home' environment where

activities are encouraged and to provide services that will enable normal and employable young people, regardless of sex, race or religion, to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities and to come to a better understanding of themselves and the world they live in. This can be summed up as being 'preventive' youth work, in the belief that an ounce of prevention is worth far more than a ton of cure. The young staff of youth workers who are seen as older brothers and sisters have in fact succeeded in creating in their Christian work a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Any young people with acute problems are referred to the Social Service Unit which is part of the St Martin's Church work done next door to 'The Centre'. The small percentage of those having less acute problems who have come to us receive the practical help they need, with the clergy of St Martin-in-the-Fields visiting 'The Centre' from time to time and giving help, when asked.

'The Centre', although it forms part of the St Martin-in-the-Fields organisation, is autonomous in having its own staff of about ten, of whom four are paid by the Inner London Education Authority. It has its own Committee of Management with representatives from the arts, business and the universities and leaders of the main religious denominations, including the Lord Bishop of London, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, the Chief Rabbi of the Congregation of British Jews of the Commonwealth and the Greater London Free Church Federation.

Let me tell you something about the wide range of activities undertaken by 'The Centre' which at present is open six days a week — Sundays 3.30 - 10.30 pm and Mondays to Fridays 5 - 11 pm. Its activities include playing of music, jazz appreciation, theatrical games, acting and improvisation, concerts, discos and folk evening; non-gambling games, such as chess, darts, bar football, pool and table tennis; and tuition in photography, arts and crafts and modern dancing, 'Keep Fit' Yoga, poster making, classical and 'pop' guitar. During the day the first floor (known as The Gallery) is rented out as a day nursery. 'The Centre's' basement (formerly a vintner's cellar) was officially opened in February 1978 by Alderman Hugh Cubitt, Lord Westminster at that time, and such activities, with tuition, as photography and development of arts and



Concrete cows and all that...

by Colin Rudd

'A conservation project,' we thought, 'in a new city. That would be just the project for the North Bucks District to run, since it had never run one before.' The Development Corporation welcomed the idea, and suggested we talk to Interaction, who run a community farm in Milton Keynes. We met and talked, and planning went ahead in a very satisfactory and rewarding way. Those of us involved in the planning particularly enjoyed working with Interaction, who knew immediately what we meant when we talked about the Toc H insight into projects. I doubt if any group of people having no previous contact with Toc H could have been more helpful, and we were very fortunate to be able to work with them.

So... the planning went ahead. And of course, in all our minds were pictures of young men mixing concrete, laying paths, putting up fence posts, and all the kinds of rather physical things that

you do on a project of this sort. That was the picture, that is, until the application forms began to come in! They were, without exception, all from girls!

If I ever did believe in all that nonsense about 'the weaker sex' I don't any more. Yes, they mixed concrete, laid the paths, put up the fence posts — absolutely straight — paddled about in the mud, and appeared to enjoy themselves into the bargain. What's more, the whole bunch want to come back again for more in the Autumn.

Lest I be accused of some kind of female chauvinism let me say that we did have a little male help. Andy James — lucky chap — was the leader, and he managed to bring a friend with him. We also had the pleasure of Tony Reade's company for a couple of days at the beginning. (Tony is chairman of Toc H in Australia.) O yes, the men helped, but those girls...



Mind my fingers!



Yes, there really are concrete cows.



These projects are such hard work!

crafts are being built up there. All these activities and the membership they attract, together with various fund raising events and the generous annual grant from the Greater London Council, bring in a certain amount of income; however, this is more than offset by the increasing costs of running 'The Centre', which is obliged to rely on the generosity of outside donors for £2,000 each month during the year.

I hope that what I have written will have given a clear picture of the value of the work 'The Centre' is doing and of the need for your support. If you feel that you would like to make a donation, would you please send your cheque (made payable to "The Centre" at St Martin-in-the-Fields") to me at 'The Centre' at St Martin-in-the-Fields, 12 Adelaide Street, London WC2N 4HW: telephone 01 930 2561/2. Your donation will be gratefully acknowledged.

Budget change!

Income Tax — Standard Rate now 30%

For each tax paying individual this is good news but for Toc H and all other charities it means a loss of income due to the amount of tax we can recover against Members' and Builders' contributions under Deed of Covenant.

Tax recoverable at 33% tax paid for each £1 covenanted was 49p.

Tax recoverable at 30% tax paid for each £1 covenanted is 42p.

A Reduction of 7p per £1.

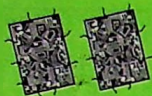
In order to offset this loss may we ask Members and Builders who are at present paying their contributions under a Deed of Covenant to enter

into a new deed for a higher amount? This will automatically cancel your existing Deed of Covenant.

To Members and Builders who are paying income tax and who have not signed a Deed of Covenant may we urge you to please consider this form of giving.

It will not affect your personal tax situation and for each £1 paid to Toc H in this way your Regional funds will benefit by 42p.

Forms are available from Regional Staff or HQ. It does not have to cost you any more than you are now paying either direct to HQ or to your branch or District branch treasurer. These payments can be covenanted.



CHIPS, PEOPLE AND V

Over the Spring Bank Holiday, Gloucestershire District brought together 30 people for a seminar on this whole topic under the chairmanship of Tom Gulliver. They came from as far afield as Stockton-on-Tees and London, Crediton and Cardiff. They included people with many different perspectives on the whole problem. Both political extremes were represented. There were 'workers', the 'unemployed', 'Union men', 'strikers' and so forth, not to mention teachers and tax officials, students and civil servants. A real Toc H mixture!

The main speaker was Professor W Gosling, Head of the School of Electrical Engineering at Bath University, who came entirely at his own cost to lead our thinking. It is impossible in a brief article to report in detail what he said during his three lectures, but the gist of his argument was this:

The three components in a technological revolution concern the management of information, the storage of information and the communication of information. In each of these areas the degree of change we are witnessing is a change of such magnitude that it can properly be called 'revolutionary'.

The questions to be asked of any new technological development are 'How much more complex is it? How much faster? How much cheaper?' Unlike any previous technological jump, the answer is that the new microprocessor technology is already approaching the point when it is, literally, thousands of times more complex, faster and cheaper.

As an example of speed, microprocessors work more than one million times faster than the human brain (and, of course, are not subject to error and forgetfulness as we are). They work in speeds that can be measured in 'nanoseconds' (or parts of nanoseconds) and a nanosecond is the time it takes light to travel about one foot (whereas in one ordinary second, light travels 186,000 miles). In the time it takes a human to blink, a microprocessor can accomplish ten million distinct operations. This sort of acceleration is unprecedented.

The new technology is also becoming very cheap. We can all see what has happened to the cost of pocket calculators, and it is clear that the impact

of this new technology will be widely diffused, because it will become economically available. So these microprocessors are fast, cheap, and incredibly small — a camel may not be able to go through the eye of a needle but some microprocessors can!

The storage of information was the second point, and here again the change is revolutionary. With new technology, for example, it is possible to store, in a box the size of an average TV set, every word and every comma of 400,000 average length books. The cost of storing a longish novel would be 12½p — the entire works of Proust can be held in a memory bank for £5 — and any piece of information, any part of a book, can be accessed within one second.

The communication of information, too, is being transformed. The optical fibre (a thin strand of glass through which messages are sent in the form of light) is a dramatic improvement. Through one optical fibre it is now possible to transmit a dozen full length novels (every word, every comma) in one second. As the Professor put it, 'Into the cauldrons of time, new ingredients have been added!'

The Professor went on to point out that no-one, of course, knows what the impact will be. The present take-up is very uneven, but there is probably no industry which in the end, the new technology will not affect — revolutionising production processes and organisation, if not the product itself. Those that have already absorbed it have shown startling and unmatched growth.

It is also worth noting how employment patterns within the industries that have embraced the new technology compare with those that have not. In the electronics orientated activities, staff count per pound of wealth generated has fallen sharply. While a worker in ordinary manufacturing industry does well to generate more than £10,000 to £25,000 worth of added value per annum, a young man designing microcircuits is expected to generate no less than £250,000 of added value per annum. Thus, for an equal generation of wealth, far fewer people will be needed, and the lost jobs will be primarily in the managerial, marketing, design and technical roles.

In the 18th Century, 90% of the British working population were engaged, directly or indirectly, in agriculture. At present, owing to technological advances in agriculture, the figure is 5%, but producing ten times as much food. At the beginning of the 20th Century, 70% of the working population was engaged in manufacturing industry. It has already dropped to 40%, and will go on dropping to 10% and then 5%, but with an overall increase in production.

Quite apart from manufacturing industry, other areas of life will also be affected. Many professions will feel the impact. For example, law, architecture and especially medicine (diagnosis by computer is already a reality in the US). Naturally, too, people whose work is concerned with processing information on paper will also be seriously affected. The 'word processor' will replace the typewriter in many areas, and the days of the printer and typist are fast going (vide *The Times*). (In their new book 'The Future with Microelectronics', Ian Barron and Ray Curnow list the jobs most at risk, and the list includes, 'accountants, financial advisers, draughtsmen, computer programmers, postmen, telegraph operators, printers, proof readers, library assistants, secretaries, clerks, keypunchers, cashiers, meter readers, TV and phone repairmen, light electricians, machinists, mechanics, inspectors, assemblers, operatives, material handlers and warehousemen').

Finally, Professor Gosling looked at the social and political implications of the new technology. In his opinion, it would generate the biggest change in society since the discovery of fire! Already, some industries had been swiftly and totally destroyed (eg Swiss watches) and changes of this magnitude cannot be resisted. The question was 'How can we use this new technology in a way that will be consistent with the values we hold about men and society, and so that the process is not at great cost to one section of the community (such as the working class during the Industrial Revolution)?' Faced with a situation where the food and wealth we need is generated by about 10% of our population, we have to ensure that that 10% is neither exploited, nor allowed to become a ruling technocracy. In the long term it is clear we have to re-think our whole attitude to work. It

WORK

by J E Mitchell

may be that we will have to break the link between work and pay, so that we receive a living wage which is not directly attributable to the contribution we make to society. Alternatively (and more probably, to Professor Gosling's mind) we could, in time, re-define as 'work' many activities that are not at present so defined.

In the short term, though, we face massive unemployment (Barron and Curnow forecast 10% to 15% of the work force by 1990), and, as a result, social unrest and political instability. However, as the Professor pointed out, we must see these changes as essentially opportunities, rather than drawbacks. Man was surely created for something better than just 'work' in the terms in which we now think of it.

* * *

For the rest of the weekend, the participants wrestled with the implications of all they had heard during the lectures. There seemed to be general agreement that the Professor's basic point — that we faced a qualitative change, not just a quantitative change, — was correct, and it was also felt that, despite the problems, Britain should embrace the new technology as soon as possible. It was clearly felt that to reject it would lead, in the long run, to even greater problems, and especially to even greater unemployment.

One main issue that emerged was a general concern that we re-think our attitudes to work, and that we seek to find ways to emphasize that remunerated work was not the only route to self respect. Unemployment at present still gives loss of status, loss of social group, stigma, frustration and anxiety.

The weekend heard examples of people living 'on the dole' deliberately and using their time to make a useful contribution to society. In the case of one person present, it was a choice to live 'on the dole' and to spend his time studying electronics! It was felt that this should be welcomed and it was clear that, in years to come, more and more people had to learn to accept that the money they received to live on might not be 'direct reward' for the work they did.

There was a widely held view that retirement age should be dropped, and many other ideas for work sharing, more holidays, more leave of absence etc were suggested. The concept of the 1,000 hour working year (ie 25 hours for 40 weeks) was also discussed.

At Central Council last November, the Movement was challenged to start thinking seriously about the future impact of the micro-electronic revolution. One District, at least, has responded.

Naturally the weekend found it easier to find questions than answers, and all present were well aware of the fact that the important thing was to encourage people at all levels in society to become aware of what was happening, and to start thinking about the implications. In particular it was hoped that Toc H branches would consider these questions, and perhaps meet with others, outside Toc H, to discuss them. Toc H is in a unique position, because of its mixture, to get people of differing viewpoints together to discuss this. Some of the questions branches might like to ask might be:

1. *Do you agree that the changes we face are so significant?*
2. *Do you agree we should welcome the new technology?*
3. *How do we structure society so that the wealth may be shared fairly?*
4. *How do we challenge the myth, propagated by many politicians, that a return to full employment is feasible?*
5. *How do we start changing our attitudes to work, and to the unemployed?*
6. *How do we encourage people to be content not to work in paid employment?*
7. *What alternatives to the 'fellowship of the workplace' can be offered to the unemployed?*
8. *What changes in our political structures will be necessary to cope with the changed social situation?*

Perhaps two comments stood out during the weekend as being of the greatest significance. One person said 'Man needs to be creative — otherwise he cannot be happy — and he also needs to be engaged, with others, in forms of challenging activity. In other words, we need to be both creative and co-operative. How do we build that into a new technological society?'

Finally, in the words of Professor Gosling — 'For the first time in our history, we have now a real chance to choose what life is to be about'.

World Chain of Light 1979

In our July issue, we reported that this year's World Chain of Light will start from St George's Chapel at London Airport (pictured below).

St George's is underground. It was designed as a vaulted crypt since a conventional above ground church would have been dwarfed by the massive airport buildings all round. The entrance at ground level is dominated by a 16 ft oak cross standing in a walled garden.

The chapel is open day and night. One altar, dedicated in 1972 by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Heenan and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, is used for all Christian worship; There are regular services, baptisms and confirmations and the chapel is licensed for marriage services.

The Christian ministry at Heathrow (with its 50,000 staff and 50,000,000 passengers and visitors each year) extends beyond the chapel to embrace an active Industrial Mission and a unit to deal with the personal problems of staff and passengers.



Talbot House

Toc H invites applications for the post of Housekeeper at Talbot House, Poperinge as from 31 October 1979. The Housekeeper is responsible for the domestic supervision of the house and for the receipt of money from visitors. Accommodation is provided in a self-contained flat in the house. Hours and salary to be negotiated. If you are interested, please contact, as soon as possible, The General Secretary, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. Tel: 0296 623911.

From the Director

Ken Prideaux-Brune



I have, I think, a reputation for being something of a radical so far as Toc H is concerned. There are times, however, when I feel that there are elements in our past way of doing things that could with advantage be revived. I was therefore particularly interested to learn of the discussion taking place in the North East

Region about the role which used to be performed by the Area Guard of the Lamp. This, you may recall, was the body which had a particular concern for standards of branch life and to which branches had to apply for the re-grant of branch status. This function is now theoretically devolved to Districts, but in many cases it is no longer performed at all. I believe that in some form or other it ought to be revived.

I am not convinced that anybody from outside has the right to sit in judgement on a branch. I do believe, however, that every branch ought, at regular intervals, to assess itself. Every branch ought to ask itself, as honestly as human nature will allow, how far it lives up to the ideals of Toc H, how far it lives out the Four Points.

If such self assessment is to be made we need to be clear about the criteria on which it is to be based. In other words, just what standards ought we to expect? What do we mean by fellowship? By service? How do we recognise 'the Toc H spirit'? On the more practical level, is there a minimum size below which a branch ought not to be recognised? How important is a corporate job?

These are just some of the

questions that need to be asked. None of them are easy to answer, but if we are going to assess ourselves honestly we need to find answers to them. And the process of wrestling with fundamental questions of this kind will help to renew our understanding of the Movement — and, at the same time, rekindle that sense of excitement which drew us to Toc H in the first place.

Branches and Districts in the North East Region are struggling with these questions at the moment. I hope that others will want to tackle them too. Why don't you set aside some evenings during the autumn and winter to try and define the ideals which you are trying to live up to?

* * *

A brief visit to Scotland enabled me to meet many members at informal gatherings in Edinburgh and Largs; to hear encouraging news of several new groups in course of formation; and to see Alloa branch's latest acquisition, a 16 seater bus. This is at the time of writing, with the generous consent of all concerned, in the REME workshops in Stirling from which it will, we hope, emerge fully roadworthy. Other friends have offered to give it a new coat of paint. One of the major uses for the bus will be to provide transport for people to visit friends and relatives in hospital a valuable service when hospital visiting often involves long and complicated journeys by public transport.

* * *

A week later I was at the other end of the country — in Cornwall. And I can report that *Clochemerle* is alive and well and living in Calstock. Calstock Branch has won a battle with the local Council for the removal of public conveniences from their present position by the river, where they are undoubtedly an eyesore. It's easy to make jokes about an achievement of this kind but this is, in fact, a good example of the influence which a branch can have in its local community.

* * *

A generous opportunity has been provided by the offer of grants to local units of Toc H to enable them to develop new activities designed to spread the influence of Toc H, particularly through an increase in membership. This is the Warden Manor Award Scheme, so called because the money comes from the proceeds of the sale of Warden Manor, the much loved house on the Isle of Sheppey. Preliminary information was sent to all branches and groups in July and full details will be circulated in September. The grants will be made at the time of next year's Festival and they provide us with the chance of marking the Festival with a number of significant local initiatives.

Investment with Building Societies— repayment of tax

It is confirmed by the Inland Revenue (Claims Branch) that Toc H branches who have investments with Building Societies may submit claims for reimbursement of tax deducted at source on interest earned. The statutory authority for this claim is that exemption from Income Tax is granted to Toc H under Section 360(1)(c) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.

The following procedure should be adopted:

1. The branch should obtain from the Building Society vouchers with an endorsement to the effect that interest has been paid at the company investor rates in accordance with Section 343(2)(b) Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.
2. Claim form R68 should be obtained from the Finance Secretary, Wendover, and when duly completed under Section 1B, should be returned to Wendover, with the Building Society vouchers and a copy of the latest branch Annual Account.
3. Form R68 should not be signed by the branch, as it is requested by HM Inspector of Taxes that claims to repayment are made by Toc H Headquarters on behalf of branches. Headquarters claims for repayment of tax are submitted quarterly beginning quarter ending 5 April in each year.
4. No claim for repayment of tax will be allowed unless it is made within six years next after the end of the year of assessment to which it relates ie a claim for the year ended 5 April 1974 is within date if received by the first post on 6 April 1980.
5. It is proposed that any reimbursement of tax received as a result of claims should be credited to the Regional Family Purse in the year in which it is received.

JBAC

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In May

W 'Bill' Bassham (Middlesbrough)
 Florence H Chapman (Spalding)
 Jack A Cockerell (Ruislip)
 Maud E Cornick (Weymouth)
 Douglas A Davis (Bracknell)
 Hilda G Jones (Bishops Castle)
 Harold A Knight (Yiewsley & West Drayton)
 Albert E Lines (Netherhall)
 Eric Masters (Beckenham & Pickhurst Green)
 H A 'Sinbad' Milne (Broughton Astley)
 L Phillips (Chippenham)
 H J 'Jim' Price (Cheadle Hulme)
 H Rushworth Smith (Aigburth)
 H W Speight (Kendal)

In June

'Archie' Baxter (Stockport District)
 Victor Byatt (Clacton-on-Sea)
 M 'Gwen' Davey (Milford-on-Sea)
 Llewelyn Lloyd (Llanelli)
 Jim Moir (Corby)
 'Bill' Tavender (RHHI)

Jack Cockerell of Ruislip (Middlesex) Branch died on 13 May at the age of 74. He was a founder member of Ruislip Branch, and has been active in branch matters for 48 years. In the second World War he served in the Royal Marines in the Far East. He was a retired master builder following his father in the family business in Kensington. Jack lived a full and busy life, taking a leading part in organising Toc H projects of many different kinds - boys' camps, a club for the blind, outings and parties for handi-

capped people, swimming and haircutting for spastic children, amateur dramatics, and innumerable jobs of individual personal service. Over the years he held every office in the branch, but he was happiest and best as Jobmaster. He will be greatly missed.

Arthur Woolmer, Chairman of Lakeland South DEC, writes:

The passing of Harold Speight has left a large gap in the membership of Kendal Branch. Harold was 85 when he died last month, and right up to the fortnight before his death, he was regularly attending our weekly meetings. Harold Speight served his country well in two world wars. He joined Durham Light Infantry as a young man of 19, took part in some of the most bloody campaigns, and, though wounded, survived to become one of the first Toc H members on Tyneside. During the second world war, he volunteered to serve on Army Supply vessels at Portland. For 25 years Harold has been a member of Kendal Branch. He was also Secretary of the Kendal Red Cross, and earlier he did good work with the Scout Movement in Newcastle.

Harold was possessed of a keen analytical brain, a profound sense of humour, and was exceptionally well read. He was very knowledgeable in matters of Art and was something of an artist himself. He was a keen cyclist, and right up to a short time before he died, he and his 'bike' were a familiar sight in Kendal. To Harold Toc H and branch life were something very real. His dedication to the Movement was an example to us all. His belief in his Maker, to whom he has now gone, was deep and sincere. To him religion was something real and personal, and we mourn the passing of a Christian gentleman.

Bill Looker writes: One of the founder members of Broughton Astley (Men's) Branch (Leicestershire), Harry Milne (Sinbad), died on 23 May 1979. He will be sadly missed. Sinbad fought in the first World War, and was for a number of years a Warden at Talbot House in Poperinge. He had a wealth of knowledge about the early days of the Movement, and was a friend of Tubby. When he was a youth, he went to sea under sail, and many a tale he has told us about his life on this windjammer. He loved poetry, especially the works of Robbie Burns, and reading was his best loved pastime. Our branch will never again be quite the same.



Photo: David L. White

'Operation Lumberjack' was a joint effort by Toc H's Southampton 'Maggies' and pupils of Cowes (IOW) High School to clear an area of forest at Mottistone. Parkhurst and Cowes branch members

ferried the workers to Bushrew Cope where they cleared and cut up fallen trees. At the end of the day, the party produced as a bonus 25 sacks of logs to distribute to the elderly.



Photo: Sevenoaks Chronicle

Mrs R Walters, Chairman of the British Arthritis and Rheumatism Association receiving a public address system donated

by the Sevenoaks (Kent) Men's Branch and presented by their chairman, John Cox.

We give thanks for their lives

Open Forum

BALANCE OF POWER

There has been much misguided thinking among our intelligentsia as well as among rank and file trade unionists and others, in our generation. Thus it is private enterprise and mainly small business men who create wealth. It was doctrinaire anti-capitalists who stopped the Frankfurt International Weekly 'Times' from coming out. It isn't 'capitalism' that's wrong with our society. That is my very clear answer to Eddie Crouch (Open Forum, May 1979). Far from it! Indeed the capitalist system — capitalism — is one of the most vital forces in human nature. It is *not* greed to treat the making and distributing of goods and services to the others, at a well earned profit, as one's mission in life, as do, for example Marks and Spencers. On the contrary, so doing makes for the caring society which Britain really needs. It is rabid, militant, abuse of power that makes for the 'don't care', 'I'm all right Jack' society, of which we will fail to rid ourselves at our peril, whenever it rears its ugly head. No! not capitalism — but monopoly capitalism of both Big Business and the Big Unions and Nationalised Industries — is the evil. And Protectionism has alone caused monopoly capitalism. Only Free Trade — we had it till 1913 — will rid us of it.

Louis de Pinna, MA, LL B Honours (Cantab)
Lincoln's Inn, London

May I be permitted to write in support of many of the arguments put forward in your May issue on the subject of the Balance of Power as it concerns the role of the Trade Unions and Society?

As well as being an active member in Toc H I am an active member of a Trade Union. Recently I spent three days at our Union Conference where it became apparent that every year the rank and file member is more frustrated by the outside pressures on his way of life — be it Government control on his pay and his working conditions or the way he sees the country moving. . .

Trade Unionists are members of the community and the vast majority have no desire to ruin the state but aim to enhance it for the benefit of all. The sad reality of the working situation today, is that increasingly the company boards are becoming more determined to keep the working force from being involved in power sharing at their work place. The bigger the company, the greater the determination. The Bullock Committee recommended power sharing at work with equal responsibility for

the two sections to the furtherance of their company and the nation as a whole, but we have all seen attempts killed because the traditional positions are altered or abandoned. Let us learn that equal responsibility is the key to success.

The other overriding need for change is in the way we are governed. More power should be devolved to the grassroots of the population from parish council level up, less interference should be the watchword: the present 'you will or else' will never bring the nation back to its original greatness or involve the community at large. If Parliament itself could be made more accountable to the electorate by a better electoral system much would be gained and more people would opt in rather than opt out of sharing in the election process. All too many people have the attitude, 'what they do doesn't affect me so why should I bother?' The nation needs a sense of direction and it will not come if half the population live in apathetic isolation.

Geoffrey J Heathcock
Saffron Walden, Essex

WORK IS PRAYER

I was interested in your item on Rev John Patton (May 1979) in which you published two verses found by his daughter, which you thought he might have written.

The first of these is new to me, but the second, 'My Master was a Carpenter', I can report is not by him but by Rev William George Tarrant (1853-1928).

According to Julian's 'Dictionary of Hymnology' (1907), W G Tarrant was, from 1883, Minister of Wandsworth Unitarian Christian Church. He was editor of the 'Inquirer' 1888-97 and one editor of the Essex Hall Hymnal, 1890 & 1902 editions. More up to date information on him is probably contained in the book 'Companion to Congregational Praise', though I have not been able to check there.

Julian's dictionary contains the titles of several hymns by him which were in use at the time but does not mention 'My Master was a Carpenter'. The only hymn book I have found which includes it is 'Sunday School Praise' published by the national Sunday School Union in 1958. There it begins 'My Master was a worker' but there are no other differences compared with what you have printed. The tune to it in that hymn book, 'Master's Man', was obviously written specially for it and probably recently, suggesting the possibility that the hymn was little used previously.

Sunday School Praise includes three other hymns by W G Tarrant: 'Now praise we great and famous men' (Ecclesiasticus 44), 'Long ago the lilies faded' (Jesus's continuing presence) and 'The fathers built this city' (civic life). The first two of these are also in Congregational Praise (1951). The third is in an edition of the 'Fellowship Hymnbook' (of the Adult School movement) published some time between 1906 and 1924, together with a song (it is hardly a hymn) about the day's work beginning 'Welcome morning, bright and blue', which he seems to have written specially for that book.

A common theme of all these hymns by W G Tarrant is 'Christianity in daily life' which could also be said to be the theme of Toc H. From the comments you have made about John Patton he seems to have been a like minded person so on those grounds he might be expected to be attracted to the hymn by W G Tarrant. I wonder, however, whether there was any personal connection between the two ministers which has so far not been discovered?

J S Maddams
Kettering

NOTE: Geoffrey Barnes of Rochdale has also written to tell us of the author, of 'My Master was a Worker'. So far, no-one seems to have traced the other verse, which may well have been John Patton's own. Does anyone know it?

Editor

FAMILY PURSE

I feel I must comment on the second item in the 'In Brief' section of June's *Point Three*.

Congratulations to N Wales and to Acton and Garden Village Men's Branch in particular for their fine efforts for Family Purse.

No, it is not a record — and neither do I claim a record, for someone can no doubt better the following figures! But this is not what giving to Family Purse is all about. Figures can be very misleading. What in one case may appear to be a low average can in fact be or include a higher personal giving than what may appear to be a record figure until all the facts are known and one truly compares like with like.

However, you may be interested to know that Gorleston and Gt Yarmouth Men's Branch achieved a figure of £16.03 per head (from 13 members, seven of whom are on Deeds of Covenant) and the Cambridge Joint Branch achieved £15.16 per head (from 21 members, eight of

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

whom are on D of C). Also that three other branches passed £11 and two others £10.

The average for the whole East Anglian Area was £6.94 per head (from all sources).

Alan Brooke
Thetford, Norfolk

Note:

(1) We have heard from the East Anglian treasurer who repeats Alan Brooke's figures and adds that much of this contribution stems from 'special efforts' and wide use of the Deed of Covenant Scheme.

(2) Alfreton Branch, with ten members, has produced an average contribution to Family Purse of £19.69 a head.

(3) Any advance on these?

Editor

LONG SERVICE MEDALS?

At a recent branch meeting on 'Business and Jobs', our Chairman, who has not long been a member, said he was surprised that members with 25 years or over received no recognition of same, by a certificate or a special badge denoting their service to Toc H. This was then openly discussed by all the members of the branch and unanimously agreed that it was worthy of consideration by the CEC.

May this be published in *Point Three* so that the feelings of other branches be known about this suggestion?

Arthur Whitby
Heywood, Lancs

UNEMPLOYMENT

Frank Barter's article is no doubt intended to promote discussion; but, like most discussion papers its conclusions tend to relate only to the writer's version of the problems posed — however fallacious.

I cannot believe that Mr Barter expects his four 'transformations' to be taken seriously, if only because he fails to explain how they would be paid for. Technological change is only one — though a major factor in the growth of unemployment. Two others are currently looming large:

1. Two hundred years of technological change were based on abundant, cheap, energy. It has only recently been brought home to us that the sources of energy are finite and that mankind has squandered them at an alarming rate. What we are pleased to call 'efficiency' is mainly the

replacement of men by machines driven by energy.

2. Inflation does not just happen; it is the result of increasing demands for reward — mainly wages. The statistics and the visible evidence of prosperity demonstrate that wages have risen faster than prices — and not the reverse. As the cost of employing men rises we reduce their numbers or prices 'go out of the roof'. (See also Charles Potts on 'Good Intentions' — *June Point Three*).

Both of these are fundamentally human problems which no changes in the monetary system are likely to solve for long. We have to adjust to a much more careful use of energy and to bring to an end the spiral of wage demands or we shall assuredly bring about a much lower standard of living than we now enjoy. Protestations of help to the Third World are going to look pretty silly if that comes about.

Edwin W Atkin
Lymington, Hants

The article 'Unemployment' by Frank Barter which you reprint in your June issue is excellent, but not the first of his remedies. An unearned dole gives no real satisfaction.

At present we are heading towards full employment for a few and unemployment for many. The better situation is employment for all, either a few hours a day, or a few days a week. This may be difficult to achieve, but it is not impossible. If the motor industry is five times overmanned, then let it continue to employ the same number of men, pay them the same weekly wage, and require them to work only one day each a week and work five times as hard. Surely there can be no satisfaction in going to work five days a week and loafing four fifths of the time?

The problem of occupation during leisure hours would remain, but that must be faced in any case. Going to work and then sleeping in the factory does not seem the right answer.

Rev E M Royds-Jones
Fareham, Hants

POINT THREE

I too agree with Brian Howitt (see June issue) regarding the Editorial in the March issue of *Point Three*. I think in every way the magazine is excellent and as for 10p a copy you certainly deserve praise for keeping costs down for the time being.

Barbara Hunt
Leicester

EUROPE

It is very sad that a journal pledged to fair thinking should be the vehicle for such attacks upon Europe as some of those emanating from closed minds in your Open Forum. It surely makes a mockery of the slogan that 'Together we offer Community Help' and of our declared objective of bringing people together.

Some appear to be under the illusion that we can return to the days of colonial exploitation when the red patches on the map of the world depicted an Empire that has gone for good. Perhaps the saddest aspect is that the concept of a European Community should be blotted out by market haggling. Is it entirely irrelevant that some of the most vociferous opponents include those who have been holding the British Community to ransom for selfish sectarian ends?

On the purely material level, anybody taking an unbiased factual view must recognise that in isolation we are now neither economically viable nor militarily defensible. Politically, we seem incapable of eliminating class warfare. In all this we are no different from most of our European colleagues. We all need each other.

But what is at stake is not material survival nor the preservation of national identities. Stalin once asked sarcastically how many Divisions the Pope had — and although he didn't mean it that way, the non-military sense of the word was just as relevant. Now the Pope is bearing his own witness to the true source of strength, not from the isolation of his own home base but by crossing frontiers.

Toc H owes its conception to the capacity of our founding generation to find and demonstrate the eternal realities amidst the ebb and flow of temporal chaos at the heart of European conflict. We betray a sacred trust if we fear to follow their example for the sake of illusory material gain or false national pride. How hollow a mockery will our family prayers become if we fear to give because we are so busy counting the cost.

Colin Campbell
Radcliffe-on-Trent

It is important to remember that a vote by the British people for or against membership of the Common Market has never taken place. . .

Mr Heath took Britain into the Market after a promise to 'negotiate, no more, no less' before any referendum took place, and the referendum in 1975, called by the Labour Government,

Open Forum (cont.)

contrary to widespread opinion, was not for or against membership, as such, but for continued membership under the so called 're-negotiated terms'.

On both counts, this country was deceived as to the true conditions and implications of membership, which, in part have since emerged, eg the further powers even now envisaged through the demands of an elected Euro-Assembly, and the admitted aim of federalism further to erode the sovereignty and status of national parliaments.

The true nature of the Common Market will become increasingly clear, and the people of this country still hold the power to demand of their MPs at Westminster Britain's withdrawal from the Community, whilst still maintaining the closest links of friendship, trade and co-operation.

Nancy Spencer
Sherborne, Dorset

We are privileged to be living in the century which has produced the European Assembly, a truly historic milestone in the life of this continent. This in the wake of two great wars, the sacrifice of millions of precious lives, and incalculable losses in material wealth.

The miracle is that nations who have been at war now work together in community. France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

It would be a betrayal of those who sacrificed their lives if we fail to grasp this great opportunity to take our full share in this coming together of nations. The veterans of those dark days of war who parade at our Cenotaphs on Remembrance Day remind us of the immense debt we owe to those who

fought and died that our nation might survive.

The Assembly recently elected is a challenge to its members and the peoples of the nations they represent to face their international problems squarely, and open the way for a new era in the conduct of European affairs. Our error was in hesitating and holding back at the outset. Let us look forward and pull our weight and make the EEC the supreme contribution to world peace and co-operation in our generation.

Cecil B Wakely
Goring-by-Sea, W Sussex

In response to some of the misleading comments made by three of your contributors in the June edition of your excellent journal, may I please mention some facts for the benefit of your readers?

1. We are all aware that the English language is spoken and understood in the entire world as well as in the European countries, but the now notorious Treaty of Rome had never been translated into English when Mr Heath signed it.

2. Common Market laws now supersede British laws when the two conflict, so it is no longer true to speak of 'English justice benefiting our Continental fellow citizens.'

3. To speak of 'Our Commonwealth concern' while ignoring the disastrous effects of British membership to our natural trading partners and allies in our Old Commonwealth is slightly hypocritical to say the least.

4. The European Assembly (not a parliamentary institution as implied) can never be democratised. How could it be with 81 British MPs in a permanent minority, allegedly to serve the interest of over 500,000 constituents each, and

with a built in Continental majority of 329? It takes little imagination to envisage the results of any resolutions proposed which could affect every vital aspect governing British lives and resources. Mr Thompson writing from Switzerland glibly talks of 'not counting the cost': he must try to forgive those of us who flatly refuse to do so — much, much more than money only is involved, sir.

5. The disadvantages to Great Britain will never go away until repeal of the Communities Act, and to pretend that the EEC has anything to do with the peace of the last 30 years is a nonsense. France is not a member of NATO where our real defence lies: she withdrew membership and all NATO installations in 1966, so where is the much vaunted 'unity' and who exactly will be expected to 'unify' Germany? France also has her own non-aggression pact with the USSR. The French will always look after the interests of France, and for that we must admire her countrymen who show a greater care and patriotism than some of ours display. The Treaty of Rome has nothing whatsoever to do with defence, it is NATO who has successfully kept the peace since 1949. Let it continue to do so, with no more talk of 'Jaw' being preferable to 'War' in respect of our disastrous membership of the European Community which is a restrictive inward looking supranational authority — something the British have fought proudly against throughout our *not ignoble history*.

Mrs D Austin
Secretary, Torbay Anti-Common Market

Note: This correspondence on Europe is now closed. Editor

Photo: Ron Cable Photography



Launceston (Cornwall) Joint Branch recently entertained four ladies from London's 'Friendship House' for a week. The branch raised the whole cost of the holiday and, despite unseasonable

weather, showed their visitors quite a lot of Devon and Cornwall. They have since had most appreciative letters from their guests.

The Old House

Mev Lucienne Lamond Vanbrabant, Housekeeper of the Old House in Poperinge since 1971, is leaving at the end of October this year. The Friends of the Old House plan to give Lucienne a farewell gift. If you would like to contribute to this gift, please send your donation to The Finance Secretary at Wendover to arrive not later than 31 August. Cheques payable to 'Toc H', please.

'I've never seen Toc H like this before'

Members from all over North Wales gathered in Wrexham on 19 May for the annual area Festival.

A newly devised service of re-dedication, during which the Standard of Wales was carried into the church by five members of the Toc H Holywell Projects Group, started a day which broke with past traditions of festivals in Wales. The festival was conducted by Rev Ifor Phillips from Corwen, with an address by The Venerable R S Foster, Archdeacon of Wrexham. Nearly 200 people attended the service.



In the evening a 'music extravaganza' was held at Grove Park School Wrexham commencing with the traditional entry of banners from the Area accompanied by Welsh music on harps. Many guests, new to Toc H were openly appreciative of the banner display on stage, bathed in light and surrounded by flowers, kindly supplied by the Wrexham Parks and Gardens department. Pupils from Ysgol Maes Garmon in Mold entertained guests with a selection of traditional Welsh songs and the main item for the evening was a 'swinging' selection of modern songs from the James Lambert Singers, whose performance brought loud and long applause.

Bobbie Richards, North Wales Area Chairman, speaking to an Area gathering for the first time, reminded guests of the purpose of Toc H and challenged members to think anew of their pledges to the Movement . . . (Note: a full report of the address will appear in a later issue — Editor)

Escorting the Standard of Wales and also the Silver Lamp of Wales, were a group of five young people from Holywell. This gesture was noted and appreciated by many members who said that the sight of young people prepared to take part in a ceremony of this type was a real joy. Three comments marked this Festival as different from all others. Bob Parry, who organised it, afterwards described it as 'one of the best we've had'. A visitor leaving, still looking at the banners, said 'I've never seen Toc H like this before' and a youngster said he thought the evening was 'really great especially the James Lambert Singers'.

CHG

'The best reformers the world has ever seen are those who commence on themselves.'

Bernard Shaw



The Budget again!

Following the increase in VAT from 18 June 1979,
we have to increase prices as follows:

				£	p
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